

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating an airway condition of a patient, said method comprising:
selecting an implant dimensioned so as to be implanted into a tissue of an upper airway of said patient, said implant having mechanical characteristics for said implant to resist deflection of said tissue and urge a deflected tissue to return to a rest state; and
implanting said implant into said tissue.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is metal.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said metal is nitinol.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant has tissue in-growth areas.
5. A method according to claim 3 wherein said nitinol implant has an open cell structure.
6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said condition is snoring.
7. A method according to claim 1 wherein said tissue is a soft palate.
8. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is not connected to a bony structure.
9. An apparatus for treating an airway condition of a patient, said apparatus comprising:
an implant dimensioned so as to be implanted into said tissue;
said implant having a mechanical characteristic for said implant to resist deflection of said tissue and urge a deflected tissue to return to a rest state.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said implant is metal.
11. An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said metal is nitinol.
12. An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said implant has tissue in-growth areas.
13. An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said nitinol implant has an open cell structure.